

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02946 291020Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----009416 291030Z /14

O 290940Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8111  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2946

EXDIS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, LE, US  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW IN "MIDDLE EAST"

REF: A) STATE 135710; B) BEIRUT 2936

1. FORNMIN BOUTROS TELEPHONED ME MORNING MAY 29 TO ASK IF I HAD RECEIVED ANY REPLY TO HIS PROTEST ABOUT AMB. YOUNG'S REMARKS RELATING TO SYRIAN AND LEBANESE ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAEL'S PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (REF B). I SAID I HAD RECEIVED A REPLY PROMISING FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BUT TEXT ITSELF HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED HERE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

2. BOUTROS SAID HE IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM PARLIAMENTARIANS TO MAKE PUBLIC COMPLAINT ABOUT AMB. YOUNG'S REMARKS AND NEEDS EXPLANATION ASAP. HE SAID SYRIANS MIGHT ALSO RAISE THIS QUESTION IN SARKIS-ASAD MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR WEDNES-  
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DAY. (I TOLD BOUTROS SYRIANS HAD ALSO PROTESTED AMB YOUNG'S REMARKS TO OUR EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS) AT BOUTROS'S REQUEST, I REPEATED TO HIM EXPLANATIONS IN REF A. BOUTROS REPLIED THIS WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH; PEOPLE WOULD NOT BELIEVE THAT AN OFFICIAL OF AMB. YOUNG'S RANK WAS REFLECTION A "PERSONAL VIEW-POINT". HE HOPED THAT AS A MINIMUM STATE DEPT COULD ISSUE A STATEMENT SAYING IT DOES NOT SHARE AMB. YOUNG'S VIEWS ON GOL

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE ASKED THAT I TELEPHONE HIM MORNING MAY 30 WITH DEPT'S LATEST POSITION.

3. COMMENT: AMB YOUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH "MIDDLE EAST" IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY HERE AND SOME NEWSPAPERS ARE REPORTING DEMANDS BY SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT GOL REQUEST FULL EXPLANATION. (WE ASSUME FULL TEXT AS PROMISED REF A IS ON THE WIRES AND THAT WE WILL RECIEVE IT HERE MORNING MAY 30). BOUTROS HAS DONE HIS BEST TO HOLD DOWN PUBLICITY AND MINIMIZE NEGATIVE REACTIONS, BUT HE BELIEVES HE IS GOING TO NEED MORE THAN EXPLANATION IN REF A TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I BELIEVE DEPT STATEMENT ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY BOUTROS IN PREVIOUS PARA IS LEAST HE WILL NEED TO PREVENT THIS PROBLEM FROM BECOMING INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING TO BOTH GOL AND USG. ANY FURTHER EXPLANATIONS I COULD PASS TO BOUTROS ORALLY WHEN I CALL HIM TOMORROW MORNING WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.  
LANE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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